**F 278**

**Development of a conceptual network for undergraduate level learning of agricultural extension**

Agricultural Extension subjects consist of abstract concepts, which are intangible and hence difficult to understand. Also concepts are learned separately under different subjects by undergraduates. Thus different subjects by undergraduates. Thus they have difficulties in learning concepts. The objective of this study was to develop a conceptual network, which would be a learning aid.

This study was confined to agricultural education, agricultural extension, agricultural sociology, basic communication and rural sociology. The target groups were students majoring in agricultural extension and agricultural economics. During the need assessment 85%, 90% and 98% respectively indicated difficulties in understanding

remembering and applying these concepts. Also 98% felt that a conceptual net work be useful.

The method adopted was: (1) Target group determination (2) need assessment, (3) identifying available conceptual models, (4) developing the conceptual net work, (5) identifying missing models, (6) developing needed models, (7) evaluation, and (8) modifying the net work.

Conceptual models were obtained from review of literature and discussions with professionals. Models, which were not available, were created. This network consists of models that were interrelated. It was presented as a book and as a computer-based network. In the computer based product a screen contains a model and its description and by clicking on a concept the user can move to a related model.

According to the evaluation, the overall quality was good (100%), 70% found it easy to use, but the other 30% found it difficult. In the future a glossary and more models should be added and made affordable to students.